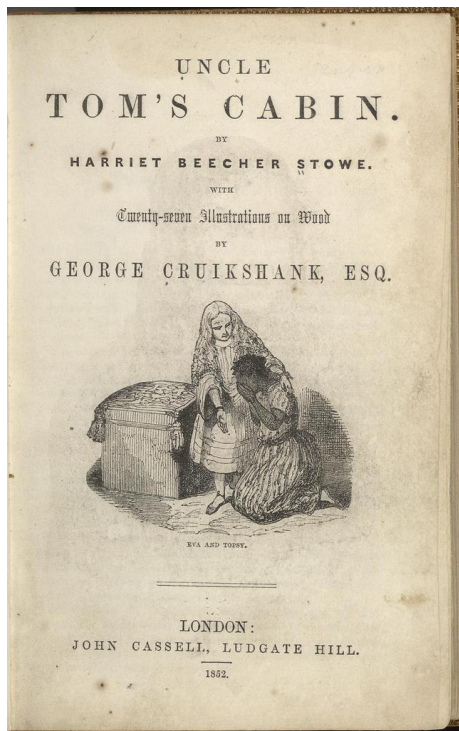


Background of the Civil War



Name: _____ Section: _____ Date: _____

Background of the Civil War Vocabulary

- 1. Cottonocracy**
- 2. Slave Codes**
- 3. Sectionalism**
- 4. States Rights**
- 5. Missouri Compromise**
- 6. Compromise of 1850**
- 7. Kansas-Nebraska Act**
- 8. Abolitionist**
- 9. Underground Railroad**
- 10. Uncle Tom's Cabin**
- 11. Fugitive Slave Act**

Notes

Differences Between North & South

I. North

- a. The North is generally defined as states that opposed slavery and are geographically located north of the Maryland/Virginia border.
- b. The Economy of the North
 - i. The north's economy relied upon factories and the production and transportation of manufactured goods.
 - ii. Many northerners moved toward cities to find work in factories
 - iii. As technology improved, factory made goods became cheaper to produce and more affordable for consumers.
 - iv. Factory made goods were easily transported throughout the north on a network of railroads and canals.
- c. Life in the North
 - i. As farming technology improved, farms became more productive.
 - ii. Because farms were more productive, competition increased.
 - iii. As farming became more competitive, many farmers sold their farms and moved to cities to find work in factories.
 - iv. Many new immigrants also flooded northern cities and provided cheap labor for Northern factory owners.
 - v. Factory work was difficult and dangerous.
 - 1. Workers were seen as disposable
 - 2. Immigrants, women and children were all hired as factory workers

II. The South

- a. The South is generally defined as states that allowed slavery and are geographically located south of the Maryland/Virginia border.
- b. The Economy of the South
 - i. The south's economy relied upon agriculture
 - ii. The south's most important/profitable crop was cotton
 - iii. Other important/profitable crops
 - 1. Rice
 - 2. Sugar Cane
 - 3. Tobacco
 - 4. Livestock

Differences Between North & South

- iv. The south's economy depended on the north
 - 1. Southern farmers needed northern textile factories to buy cotton in order to make a profit
 - 2. Due to a lack of factories, most manufactured goods needed to be purchased from the North.
- v. The South's economy also relied upon slave labor.
 - 1. Growing cotton was labor intensive.
 - 2. In order for cotton to be profitable, southerners relied on slave labor as a cheap source of labor.
- c. Life in the South
 - i. 5 social classes existed in the south
 - 1. Cottonocracy
 - a. 1% of all southern whites
 - b. Lived on large plantations
 - c. Owned 30+ slaves
 - 2. Small Farmers
 - a. 75% of all southern whites
 - b. Owned 1-2 slaves
 - c. Worked alongside slaves to produce cash crops like cotton
 - 3. Poor Whites
 - a. Could not afford land or slaves
 - b. Rented and worked land from other whites
 - 4. Free African Americans
 - a. Most lived in Maryland and Delaware
 - b. Most lived in cities
 - 5. Slaves
 - a. 1/3 of south's population
 - b. Laws called Slave Codes prevented slaves from running away or rebelling

Differences Between North & South

- III. The differences between the north and south lead to the rise of sectionalism.
 - a. Sectionalism is loyalty to a state or section rather than to the whole country.
 - b. Citizens referred to themselves as northerners and southerners, not Americans.

Slavery

- I. Slavery had existed in America since colonial times
- II. The vast majority of America's slaves were located in the south.
 - a. By 1860, 1/3 of the south's population was made up of enslaved African-Americans
 - b. The south's agricultural economy relied upon the cheap labor that slavery provided.
 - c. Southerners believed in state's rights.
 - i. It was up to each individual state, not the federal government, to make its own laws regarding issues like slavery.
- III. As America grew, the issue of slavery became increasingly prominent.
 - a. As long as the number of slave states and free states was equal, no law could be passed in Congress that would expand or eliminate slavery.
 - b. Every time a state was added to the union, the issue of slavery had to be taken into consideration.
 - i. Each new state represented a potential shift in the power of slave states and free states in Congress.
 - c. Many deals were made to try and keep the balance of slave and free states equal.
 - i. The Missouri Compromise
 - 1. In 1819, Missouri applied for statehood as a slave state.
 - 2. Missouri's admission would disrupt the balance of slave and free states and give the south a majority in Congress.
 - 3. Senator Henry Clay suggested a compromise
 - a. Admit Missouri as a slave state
 - b. Admit Maine as a free state
 - c. Draw a line across the Louisiana Purchase at the 36'30" parallel
 - i. Slavery would be allowed south of that line but not north of it.

Slavery

ii. The Compromise of 1850

1. When California applied for statehood in 1849 the issue of slavery was again a hot topic.
2. Many southerners demanded that slavery be allowed in all western territories.
 - a. South Carolina Senator John C. Calhoun insists that if slavery is not permitted in the west that the south will secede from the Union.
3. Again, Henry Clay proposes a compromise
 - a. 5 Parts
 - i. California enters the Union as a free state
 - ii. The Mexican Cession is divided in two
 1. Utah and New Mexico
 2. Each would vote whether or not to allow slavery
 - iii. Ended slavery in Washington D.C.
 - iv. Congress declares that it does not have the power ban the trading of slaves between states
 - v. Sets the border between Texas and New Mexico

iii. Kansas-Nebraska Act

1. Proposed by Senator Stephen Douglas
2. The act divided the Nebraska Territory into two -Kansas and Nebraska
3. Settlers in each territory would vote on the issue of slavery
 - a. Both proslavery and antislavery settlers rushed to the new territories to vote on the issue.
 - b. Fighting broke out between the two sides
 - i. Over 200 settlers had died
 - ii. Abolitionists John Brown and his sons murdered 5 proslavery settlers in the middle of the night.
 - c. Kansas became known as "Bleeding Kansas"
- d. These deals kept the nation together but only postponed the fight that was coming.

Slavery

IV. The Abolitionist Movement

- a. Some Americans had been fighting against slavery since colonial times.
- b. As time passed, northern states gradually outlawed slavery
 - i. By 1804, all states north of Pennsylvania promised to free their slaves
- c. A growing number of reformers, known as abolitionists, wanted to end slavery completely in the United States.
- d. Abolitionists fought in many ways to help end slavery.
 - i. Harriet Tubman & the Underground Railroad
 - 1. The Underground Railroad was a network of abolitionists that helped sneak runaway slaves north.
 - 2. Harriet Tubman was the most famous “conductor” on the railroad.
 - a. Tubman was an escaped slave
 - b. Returned to the South 19 times to help more than 300 slaves escape to the North
 - ii. Fredrick Douglas
 - 1. Douglas was an escaped slave
 - 2. Published an abolitionists newspaper called the *North Star*
 - 3. Traveled throughout the North speaking about the evils of slavery
 - iii. John Brown
 - 1. Religious abolitionists who believed God called on him to fight slavery.
 - a. Murdered supporters of slavery in Kansas.
 - b. Lead a group that captured an arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.
 - c. Brown was captured and executed for treason.
 - d. Northerners saw him as a martyr, Southerners saw him as a terrorist.

Slavery

iv. Harriet Beecher Stowe

1. 1852, Stowe wrote a book called Uncle Tom's Cabin.
2. She wrote it in response to a new law called the Fugitive Slave Act.
 - a. The Act made it illegal to help runaway slaves and paid judges for returning slaves to the south.
3. Uncle Tom's Cabin tells the story of an old kind slave who is whipped to death for not revealing the location of two runaway slaves.
4. Uncle Tom's Cabin convinced many northern readers to view slavery as a political issue AND a moral one.

v. William Lloyd Garrison

1. Published an abolitionists newspaper called *The Liberator*

vi. New Political Parties

1. Free-Soil Party and the Republican Party
 - a. Free-Soil Party was founded in Buffalo in 1848
 - b. Republican Party was founded in Michigan in 1854.
 - c. The main goal of both parties was to keep slavery out of the western territories.

e. Not all northerners supported abolition

- i. Some factory owners feared abolition would hurt their supply of cotton
- ii. Some northern factory workers feared free slaves would compete for their jobs.

Resources